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Russian president, Dmitry Medvedev, and American president, Barack Obama, meet in New York City, in the USA

## USA CANCELS EUROPEAN MISSILE SHIELD PLANS

On 17th September the president of the USA, Barack Obama, surprised many people when he made an announcement on television. He said he had decided to cancel plans to set up an American missile shield in Poland and the Czech Republic.

A missile shield is the name given to military equipment that is designed to shoot down missiles. This means it can defend a country against a missile attack.

The shield is only used if one country fires missiles, or long-range rockets, at another. First a radar system tracks the incoming rockets. Then special missiles are fired. They **intercept** the incoming rockets and destroy them in the air.

In 2007 the USA made an agreement to place an American missile shield in Poland and the Czech Republic. The radar part of the shield would be placed in the Czech Republic and the 'interceptor' missiles in Poland.

The president of the USA at the time was George W Bush. He said this shield was needed in case countries in the Middle East attacked European countries. Although he did not mention any country's name, everyone guessed he was talking about Iran.

Some countries, including the USA, suspect Iran has been developing missiles that can travel over very long distances. These countries also believe Iran is planning to build nuclear weapons. If Iran were to fit a nuclear weapon onto a long-range missile, it would be able to threaten many European countries.

Iranian leaders have denied they are building long-range missiles and nuclear weapons. They insist their missile tests are for launching satellites. The leaders also claim their nuclear experiments are part of a project to generate electricity from nuclear power and that

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they have no interest in having nuclear weapons.

Russia was very angry about President Bush's plan. Although America insisted the missile shield was only for defence, the Russians said it could be used to attack them. Russia also has a good relationship with Iran. It claims Iran does not have the technology to be able to build long-range missiles. So there would be no need for an American missile shield in Poland and the Czech Republic.



Dmitry Medvedev is the president of Russia. In 2008, he declared Russia would place nuclear weapons in Kaliningrad – a part of Russia close to Poland – if the USA's missile shield plan were to go ahead.

Most people living in Europe thought the shield was not designed to attack Russia. But some believe it had another 'hidden meaning'.

After the end of the Second World War (1939 – 1945) many countries in Eastern Europe became part of the Russian-led Soviet Union. During this period they had communist governments without any democratic elections. When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1990 these countries became independent and elected their own leaders. Most joined both the European Union (EU) and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization).

Countries such as Poland and the Czech Republic want to stay independent. So the 'hidden meaning'

of the missile shield was to show Russia the USA would help European countries that were formally part of the Soviet Union, if Russia were to threaten them.

Mr Obama's decision to cancel the missile shield plan made Russia very happy. Some Russians even called it a 'victory'. Yet many people believe his announcement will worry several eastern European countries. They say the decision may be seen as a sign of weakness. This might please countries such as Iran whose leaders are anti-American.

Mr Obama explained his decision to cancel the shield was made because he had received new information. This, he said, showed Iran was not developing long-range missiles. Instead of the shield in Poland and the Czech Republic he said the USA would place a similar type of equipment on American navy ships. But this equipment can only track and shoot down short-range missiles.

President Obama and President Medvedev met in New York City, in the USA, on 23rd September. They discussed the cancellation of the missile shield. Mr Medvedev also confirmed that Russia would now halt its plans to put nuclear weapons in Kaliningrad.

After he was elected president of the USA, Mr Obama said he wanted to reset, or 'reboot', the country's relationship with Russia. Some people think this is why he cancelled the missile shield plans.

Many people expect Mr Obama will now ask Russia to do something to help the USA in return. This, they suspect, will be to do with Iran. If Iran is found to be developing nuclear weapons the USA will need Russia's help in persuading the Iranian leaders to give up their nuclear plans. ■

## HONDURAS PRESIDENT RETURNS

Manuel Zelaya was elected president of Honduras in 2006. Last July he was forced to leave the country. Senior politicians and military leaders made him get on a plane that was then flown to the nearby country of Costa Rica.



Manuel Zelaya

On 21st September, Mr Zelaya surprised many people by reappearing in Honduras. He is staying in the embassy of Brazil. This is in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras. Most people say he chose to go to the Brazilian embassy because he knows the Honduran authorities would not dare to enter it to arrest him.

Soon after he was forced to leave the country Mr Zelaya promised to return. Recently, he tried to fly into Tegucigalpa airport but found that the runway was blocked by military vehicles. It's thought that this time a few supporters helped him to cross the border and travel over the mountains to the capital city.

Many senior judges, high-ranking army officers and elected members of the Honduran parliament wanted to remove Mr Zelaya from his job. They claimed he was planning to change the country's constitution – the rules by which a country is governed – so he could stand for re-election next year. The current rules say a president can be elected for only one four-year term.

The Honduran parliament has appointed Roberto Micheletti as a temporary president. A new presidential election is due to be held within the next few months. Mr Micheletti warned Mr Zelaya he would be arrested if he returned to Honduras.

Honduras is a member of the Organization of American States (OAS). The 35 member countries of this organisation come from North, Central and South America. The other members of the OAS, including the USA, were angry about what happened to Mr Zelaya. They voted to suspend Honduras' membership of the OAS.

When Mr Zelaya's supporters heard he was back in the country many crowded into the streets around the Brazilian embassy. On 22nd September the police forced the crowds to return to their homes. The police then surrounded the embassy building.

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is the president of Brazil. He told Mr Zelaya not to make any speeches that could cause his supporters to riot or cause trouble in Honduras.

Honduran authorities insist officials in the Brazilian embassy must now hand Mr Zelaya over. If they do not want to do that, the authorities say, he should be taken to Brazil and offered [asylum](#). ■

## UN CLIMATE CHANGE TALKS

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly began on 22nd September. This annual meeting usually takes place at the end of September and lasts for two weeks.

Every leader of the 192 UN member countries is invited. The meetings take place at the UN

headquarters, in New York City, in the USA.

The first day began with speeches about the need to reduce greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere. These gasses, most scientists believe, are the major cause of the rise in world temperatures and climate change. Carbon dioxide is one of the main greenhouse gasses. It is created when fossil fuels – oil, gas and coal – are burnt.

Leaders of over 100 countries attended the climate change meeting.

In December world leaders will meet in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, to agree by how much each country will reduce the greenhouse gasses it produces. The countries will then sign an agreement promising to stick to these amounts. This will take over from the Kyoto Protocol, an agreement signed in 1997. At that time some of the larger countries, including the USA, China, and India, decided not to sign. Yet all have said they will sign up to the new agreement in Copenhagen later this year.



*Hu Jin-tao, president of China, at the UN*

Experts say the UN meeting was important. It was the last chance leaders had to explain their own plans for cutting greenhouse gasses before the meeting in Copenhagen in three months time.

## NewsCAST

**QUIET – EXAM IN PROGRESS** — Can you do your homework when it's noisy? Can you study to the sound of music? What about... the sound of jet aircraft and big guns firing? Students in South Korean schools will be able to expect silence during the week in which they take their exams. The South Korean military has agreed to stop soldiers from training with guns during school exam times. Military leaders also announced fewer jet aircraft will be flying while students are taking their exams. However, officials said if there were a national emergency, more jet planes would be allowed to take off.

At the meeting Hu Jin-tao, the president of China, surprised many people. He said his country now plans to greatly reduce its carbon emissions. It will do this, he said, by using better technology and generating more renewable energy. Yet President Hu did not mention by how much he plans to reduce China's emissions.

China and the USA are the world's biggest producers of carbon emissions. They are each thought to generate 20% of the world's greenhouse gasses.

In the past the USA has refused to agree on carbon emission cuts. This, it said, was because other countries, such as China, would not cut the amount of carbon emissions they produced. So the Chinese president's speech was important as this was the first time China has declared that it will cut its carbon emissions.

Member countries of the European Union (EU) together produce 14% of the world's greenhouse



gasses, and Russia and India 5% each. The EU has said it will cut its emissions by 20% by 2020.

Yukio Hatoyama, the newly-elected prime minister of Japan, announced his country will cut its emissions by 25% within the next 11 years. Currently, Japan produces 4% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.

Experts say the USA is now the only large country that has not announced how it plans to reduce its carbon emissions. ■

## REFUGEE CAMP CLOSED

In the early morning of 22nd September over 500 police surrounded a refugee camp near Calais, in France. The camp was made up of tents and makeshift huts. The police moved into the camp and took away everyone living there.

Over the last ten years many people have travelled to the area around Calais. They have come from several different countries but most are from Iraq, Somalia and Afghanistan. They say they have left their homelands to escape from war or other problems.

If a person wants to move to live in another country, he or she has to make a special application. This can be expensive and take a long time. It's also possible the application will be refused.

British and French authorities want to stop illegal migrants getting into the UK. Under UK law anyone arriving in the country, who wants to stay, has a right to apply. This means people in the camps had been trying to get into the UK illegally.

At first many managed to smuggle themselves across the English Channel. Some got in the back of

trucks that crossed the Channel on ferries between Calais and Dover. Others hid on vehicles that are loaded onto trains, which then take them through the Channel Tunnel.

The police began checking all vehicles that made the crossing. Now over one million trucks are searched every year. In the last 12 months officials in the UK say 28,000 people were stopped from making an illegal crossing.



As it has become harder to make the crossing the migrants have set up camps around Calais. This is illegal. One, called Sangatte, was closed down by the French authorities in 2002. Yet this did not stop the migrants from arriving – they just moved to other places.

The camp that was closed on 21st September was nicknamed the 'jungle'. It was near the Calais ferry port. French authorities said the camp had no sanitation and the 1,500 people in it were living in awful conditions. The authorities were worried disease could break out. Many local people complained they felt unsafe. They accused the people in the camp of stealing from shops.

Many of the migrants had been brought to the camps by criminal gangs. These gangs are called people traffickers. They promise to be able to get people into the UK, and charge money to take them

from their home countries to Calais. The gangs then demand more money to get people across the English Channel.

Officials in the UK say migrants can apply to enter the country legally if they have been persecuted in the country they come from. But they say those in the 'jungle' camp in Calais are just looking for jobs and have not been persecuted in their own countries.

Some criticised the French authorities for announcing what the police were going to do in advance. These people believe many of the migrants moved out of the camp and disappeared before the police arrived. Some people expect the migrants that disappeared will come back and set up another camp.

The police took away 278 people. These migrants are expected to be sent back to their countries. The tents and huts in the camp were flattened by bulldozers and burnt. ■

## NewsCast

**COWS GET COMFORTABLE** — A university student in Norway has completed a study that says cows produce more milk if they are comfortable. Some dairy farms in Norway have replaced cow barns that have stalls with ones that have a type of rubber matting on the floor. This means the cows can move around and lie down on the rubber mats if they want to. The farmers say cows naturally lie down for about half of the day. The student's study says the 'comfortable' cows produce as much as 6% more milk than cows who have to stand up in their stalls.



## OBITUARY

## NORMAN BORLAUG 1914 – 2009

*Scientist who helped save millions of people living in less wealthy countries from starvation*

Norman Borlaug died on 12th September, aged 95. He was known as the 'Father of the Green Revolution'.

He was born in 1914 in Iowa, in the USA. His parents were farmers. When he was young he helped out on the family farm. In the 1930s, the USA suffered what was known as the Great Depression. It was very hard to make money and many people could not get jobs or buy enough food for their families.

While visiting towns and cities Mr Borlaug saw many people who did not have enough to eat. He began to see how improving farming methods could increase food supplies.

Mr Borlaug studied agricultural science at university. Then he began to study plant diseases. When he left university he went to a poor farming area in Mexico to take part in a special project.

In Mexico he noticed that a fungal disease called rust, which affected wheat plants, led to poor harvests.

In 1944 Mexican farmers grew less than half the wheat the country needed. Mr Borlaug and his team worked for more than ten years to develop a new type, or strain, of wheat plant. The new strain was not damaged by rust. It also produced more wheat grains per stem. But its stems were too weak to hold the heavy grains.

Mr Borlaug solved this problem too. He crossed the new strain of wheat with one from Japan. The Japanese strain had shorter stems. This produced a short-stemmed strain that could hold up the heavy grains. The shorter stems also meant the plant had extra energy to grow even more grain.

Mr Borlaug took his new wheat plants to southern Mexico. The climate there made it possible to have two growing seasons every year so seeds could be produced more quickly. The team added fertilizers and improved the irrigation of the land. This helped increase the amount of grain the new plants produced even further. By 1956, Mexico was able to grow all the wheat it needed to feed its people.

Mr Borlaug was then asked to go to India and Pakistan. There, poor harvests and food shortages were common. The governments of both countries feared many of their people would starve to death. Within a few years Mr Borlaug and local scientists working with him increased the amount of wheat grain grown in India and Pakistan by 400%.

During the 1960s Mr Borlaug helped other countries, including Egypt, Libya, Sudan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, to grow better wheat plants. Other scientists began to use his methods to improve different grain crops, especially rice. Increasing the amount of food grown in this way greatly reduced the number of people who suffered from starvation.

In 1970, Mr Borlaug won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work. He is the only agricultural scientist ever to have received this award. His work made people nickname him the 'Father of the Green Revolution'.

Later Mr Borlaug and his teams developed a type of very nutritious corn in Africa. It greatly reduced **malnutrition**, especially among children. He also worked in China to improve its food supply. Total world grain production went up by more than 250% between 1950 and 1990, and much of this was because of Mr Borlaug's work. He also set up the World Food Prize. This was to inspire others to follow and improve on his work. He helped educate young people about world hunger and the importance of growing enough food.

Since Mr Borlaug's work in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, more discoveries have been made in plant science. He believed these, especially genetic engineering, would help to prevent food shortages for the world's growing population.

In 2007, Mr Borlaug was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. This is the highest honour that can be awarded to a person by the American government.

Many believe Mr Borlaug's work helped save the lives of hundreds of millions of people.



Professor Norman Borlaug

## NORTHERN SEA ROUTE

Two large German cargo ships have completed a voyage through the Northern Sea Route. This is the first time non-Russian **commercial** ships have travelled this route.

The sea route runs across the northern coast of Russia in the Arctic Ocean. It is also known as the North East Passage.

In the past, apart from a few weeks in the

summer, the route was completely blocked by sea ice. More recently Russian navy ships have used the North East Passage. They have had to be accompanied

by ice breakers. These are nuclear-powered ships designed to clear, or break, a path through thick sea ice. These paths can then be used by ships following behind.

Over the last ten years sea ice in the Arctic Ocean has been shrinking. Most scientists believe this is a result of global warming. Some have even suggested the last time the Northern Sea Route was as open as it is today was between 7,000 and 5,000 years ago.

The two German ships set off from South Korea in August and travelled all the way to Rotterdam in The Netherlands. They stopped at two Russian ports on the way.

To reach The Netherlands from South Korea, ships would usually sail across the South China Sea into the Indian Ocean. From there they would travel through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean Sea and around the coasts of Spain and France. The Northern Sea Route is approximately 5,600 kilometres

(3,500 miles) shorter than the route through the Suez Canal. This means ships using it can reduce their sailing times by as much as ten days.

As a precaution the two ships were accompanied by a Russian icebreaker. Yet a captain of one of the German ships said the icebreaker was not really needed.

Many more cargo ships travelling between Asia and Europe are now expected to use the

Northern Sea Route during the summer months. Some experts say, as the ice continues to melt, it will soon be possible to use the new route all through the year.

One advantage of the shorter Northern Sea

Route is that shipping companies have to use less fuel. This means the goods they transport could be cheaper. Large cargo ships produce a lot of carbon dioxide by burning fuel. So this too will be reduced.

Some people predict the opening of the new sea route will affect the Russian ports in the Arctic. It could make them much more important, as more and more shipping companies decide to use the Northern Sea Route. ■

## CARBON TAX IN FRANCE

On 10th September Nicolas Sarkozy, the president of France, made a speech. It was shown live on French television. He announced that next year he plans to introduce a new 'carbon tax'.

Most scientists agree extra carbon dioxide in the Earth's atmosphere is causing a 'greenhouse

effect'. Other gasses, such as methane, also add to this problem. The scientists say these gasses, or emissions, act in the same way as glass does in a greenhouse. So more heat from the Sun is being trapped within the Earth's atmosphere. These scientists believe it is this 'greenhouse effect' which is the cause of global warming and climate change.

Carbon dioxide emissions mainly come from burning fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal.

Carbon taxes are meant to protect the environment. They are supposed to get people, companies and factories to reduce the amount of fossil fuels they burn for transport, heating and cooking. The new carbon tax in France will mean people and companies will have to pay an extra €17 (£15.30) per tonne of carbon emissions they create.



Nicolas Sarkozy, president of France

This means petrol will cost €0.04 (£0.036) per litre more. The price of gas people use will go up by about 5%. There will be no extra charge for electricity. France generates 80% of its electricity from nuclear power stations, which do not produce carbon emissions.

Finland, Denmark and Sweden have introduced carbon taxes within the last ten years. Many other governments have talked about them. Yet few have made a decision to introduce the taxes. This is because they can be very unpopular. If the



French parliament votes to approve President's Sarkozy's plans France will be one of the largest countries in the world to have a carbon tax.

President Sarkozy says France must start reducing its carbon emissions. He wants people to start thinking of ways to produce less carbon dioxide. He believes raising the price of petrol will encourage people to stop driving their cars so much and use public transport instead.

Some critics of carbon taxes say they are just a way for governments to collect more money. But President Sarkozy insists the French carbon tax will not be like this. The same amount of money taken in as a carbon tax will be subtracted from the other taxes people pay.

Mr Sarkozy also said a special allowance will be made for people who live in the countryside, where there are fewer buses and trains. However, some people have complained that the tax will be the same for both rich and less wealthy people, which, they say, is unfair.

Supporters of the carbon tax think the extra charge is too low. They believe people will not stop using their cars unless the cost is much higher. Yet others believe if the French parliament approves the new law, the price per tonne of carbon emissions will increase in the future. This, they say, is what has happened in the countries that already have a carbon tax. ■

## MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS

On 22nd September Barack Obama, the president of the USA, held a meeting in New York City, in the USA. He invited Benjamin Netanyahu,

the prime minister of Israel, and Mahmoud Abbas, the leader of the Palestinian Authority, to attend.

This was the first time President Obama has held talks with these two Middle Eastern leaders. Disagreements between Israelis and Palestinians first started 60 years ago. Many world leaders in the past have tried to get the two sides to make peace. So far all have failed.



*President Obama with the Israeli prime minister and Palestinian leader*

The state of Israel was set up in Palestine in 1948, with help from the USA and the United Nations (UN). Many Jewish people from Europe and other parts of the world went to live in the new country. Large numbers of Palestinians who lived there were made to leave their homes and villages. Some Palestinian families had lived on these lands for hundreds of years. Many moved to other countries. Others stayed, in areas called the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

This led to several wars. Israel was attacked by other Arab countries that supported the Palestinians. Israel then took over the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Militant Palestinian groups carried out bombings and shootings against the Israelis. Israel ended its occupation of the Gaza Strip. But it still occupies parts of the West Bank.

The Palestinian leaders and other Arab countries want Israel to leave the West Bank. But over the last 50 years Israelis in the West Bank have

built groups of houses called settlements. The Israeli people living in these settlements do not want to leave. Many people think these settlements are the main reason why Israel and the Palestinian Authority cannot agree on a peace plan.

The United Nations (UN) has ordered Israel not to build any more houses in the West Bank. But it has continued to do so.

After Mr Obama was elected president of the USA last year he said he would work to bring peace to the Middle East. Traditionally the USA has supported Israel. Many Jewish Americans hold senior positions in both government and businesses in the USA. This group – nicknamed 'the Jewish **Lobby**' – is very powerful. For example, an anti-Israeli politician is unlikely ever to be elected as the American president. This is why all Middle East peace negotiations or agreements have to involve the USA.



Some people hope Mr Obama will succeed in getting Mr Netanyahu and Mr Abbas to agree on what happens to the settlements in the West Bank. But it seems likely this will take a long time.

George W Bush, the previous president of the USA, held peace talks with the Middle East leaders quite close to the end of his presidency. He has been criticised for this. Many people say he did not leave

enough time for the talks to make any progress. President Obama has begun talking with the leaders of the Palestinians and the Israelis early in his presidency. So some think he has a much better chance of success. ■

## EU COMMISSION PRESIDENT RE-ELECTED

On 16th September José Manuel Barroso was re-elected president of the European Union (EU) Commission.

The EU Commission is based in Brussels, the capital of Belgium. It is also known as the 'Commission' or the executive of the EU. The Commission is responsible for the EU's administration. It has 27 Commissioners – one from each EU member country. These include Mr Barroso, who is a former prime minister of Portugal.

The government of each EU member country suggests one person to be a Commissioner. The president of the Commission decides which job each should have. Each Commissioner manages a department. These include things such as trade, transport, education and taxes.



*José Manuel Barroso*

The EU Commission proposes and writes all new EU laws. Representatives of the member countries' governments discuss them. Then the laws are passed to the European Parliament. The Parliament can then either change or approve them.

The European Parliament has 736 elected members. Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) are elected by people living in EU member countries. The Parliament meets in Brussels and in Strasbourg, a town in France close to the German border.

The governments of EU member countries select the president of the Commission. But the MEPs still have to vote to say whether they endorse the chosen person. If they do, he or she will be president for five years.

In 2004 the majority of MEPs voted for Mr Barroso. This time he was the only candidate. The vote to approve him was taken in Strasbourg. But Mr Barroso received fewer votes than he got in 2004. Some MEPs that voted against him said he had not done enough to stop people losing their jobs after recent money problems in EU member countries.

Some people claim the EU is not a democratic organisation. Only the MEPs are elected by ordinary people. And critics claim the MEPs don't have very much power. Most decision making, they say, is done by the Commission, which is appointed and not elected.

But supporters of the EU say it has improved the lives of millions of people living in member countries. They also say when smaller countries join together it makes them more powerful. This helps when dealing with other large and powerful countries such as China, the USA and Russia.

After being re-elected for another five years, Mr Barroso declared he planned to do more to protect people's jobs. He also said he would work more closely with the European Parliament.

Mr Barroso is able to speak Portuguese, French, English and Spanish. ■

## PEACE DAY

The International Day of Peace has been marked every year on 21st September since 1981. On this day a special bell is struck at the headquarters of the United Nations (UN), in New York City, in the USA. The Peace Bell was given to the UN by Japan in 1946.



The UN and many governments around the world held events and activities to mark the International Day of Peace.

Ban Ki-moon is the leader, or Secretary-General, of the UN. On 21st September he made a speech near the Peace Bell at the UN's headquarters. The theme of his speech was disarmament. Mr Ban urged all countries that have large quantities of nuclear weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) to get rid of them. Using these types of weapons, he said, harms innocent people as well as destroying military targets. Mr Ban says most people killed or injured by them are civilians.

Mr Ban said peace cannot be achieved by using weapons and military force. Instead, he said, it is achieved by talking to and respecting other people.

Students from around New York City went to the UN headquarters to take part in discussions about peace and disarmament. Schools further away and in other countries could



## NewsCAST

**PIGEON BEATS INTERNET** — A group in South Africa decided to demonstrate how slowly its local telephone company sends data over the internet by racing it against a homing pigeon. The pigeon, which carried a small 4GB memory stick, and the data transfer started at the same time. The data was sent to a city about 80 kilometres (50 miles) away. The pigeon took two hours to get there. By this time only 5% of the data had been sent over the internet. Those who arranged the ‘race’ said it proved how slow the company’s internet service was. Others argued the pigeon could not do immediate ‘voice calls’ as the telephone company can.

watch these events, which were broadcast on the internet.

In Germany two well-known sportswear companies decided to end a 60-year **feud** on the International Day of Peace.



UN leader, Ban Ki-moon, rings the Peace Bell

Adidas and Puma are international companies famous for making football boots and other sportswear. Both companies have their headquarters in Herzogenaurach, a town in the south of Germany.

The original owners of both companies were brothers. At first they worked together making shoes. But

60 years ago they had an argument and each decided to set up his own company. The two companies have been rivals ever since. People living in the town of Herzogenaurach are now said to be either Adidas or Puma supporters.

On 21st September, workers from Adidas and Puma played a football match together. The bosses of both companies shook hands. They said they hoped they had made people more aware of the International Day of Peace and demonstrated that everyone can help to bring peace to the world. ■

## DO SKULLS CHANGE HUMAN HISTORY?

Scientists working in Georgia have found five ancient skulls and other bones in a cave. The skulls have been dated by scientific tests and are thought to be 1.8 million years old. The archaeologists say this makes them the oldest ‘human-like’ bones ever found outside the continent of Africa.

Scientists believe the bones belong to a type of human called *homo erectus*. This name means a ‘man who walks upright’. Most archaeologists agree these types of humans first lived in Africa and started to spread to other parts of the world around one million years ago. Scientists believe the last *homo erectus* finally died out between 50,000 and 30,000 years ago.

*Homo erectus* was different from modern humans, which are known as *homo sapiens*. Sapiens means ‘wise’ or ‘knowing’. *Homo erectus*’ brain was about half the size of a modern human being’s.

The skulls and other bones were discovered at a place called Dmanisi,

about 90 kilometres (56 miles) south west of Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. The discoveries were made during archaeological digs between 1991 and 2007. The scientists who found the skulls say they are from a primitive, or early, type of *homo erectus*. These types of human-like beings, they say, had smaller brains than the more developed *homo erectus* that lived around 800,000 years ago.



One of the skulls discovered in Georgia

The bones showed these types of *homo erectus* were around 1.5 metres (4 feet 11 inches) tall. Their leg bones are very human-like, which means they were probably good walkers and runners.

The leader of the team that discovered the skulls said they had been found next to some stone tools. Animal bones were also found that had cut marks on them. This, the scientist suggested, could show the human-like beings prepared meat before eating it.

Prehistoric skulls are often found without their teeth. One skull that had no teeth seemed unusual, though. The teeth were missing and the bony tooth sockets had healed over. So it seems the individual could have lived for a few years after losing its teeth. This means the others may have helped the toothless one to eat and survive. The scientists think this shows there must have been some form of society where individuals looked after each other.

The date of these skulls means some archaeologists now think groups of the very early *homo erectus* from Africa must have migrated, or moved, to Europe and Asia much earlier than previously thought. ■

## UNDERSEA OIL SPILL

An oil company from Thailand is working to fix a leak from under one of its oil platforms in the Timor Sea off the north west coast of Australia. The company first noticed the leak on 21st August. The oil well has been leaking around 400 barrels of oil per day. By 18th September it was reported to have leaked 1,200 tonnes of oil into the sea.



Oil platform in the Timor Sea

The leak occurred in a piece of equipment buried over 3,000 metres (9,850 feet) under the bottom of the sea. The oil has therefore been seeping up through the seabed into the water. The oil company began work to mend the equipment on 13th September. It has to drill down through the seabed to do this. It expects its drill to reach the area of the leak sometime in October.

The Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS) is a group that works to protect ocean life. It is worried about some coral reefs and marine life in the area, including fish and birds.

An Australian sea safety organisation is running the clean-up work.

## NewsCAST

**EXPENSIVE PET** — The Tibetan mastiff is a rare breed of dog. Recently, one wealthy woman in China decided she wanted to own one. She paid US\$600,000 (£360,000) for the dog. It was bred in a province in the north west part of China. The woman flew to the province to collect the dog and then brought it back home on the plane with her. She and her new pet were welcomed at the airport by other fans of the rare dog breed. Tibetan mastiffs can grow to weigh up to 80 kilograms (176 pounds). They are known to make very good guard dogs.

The oil company has agreed to pay for cleaning up the oil. This includes ships towing skimming equipment. Oil floats in water, so these ships can skim, or collect, the oil from the surface of the sea.

Planes and ships are also being used to drop chemicals called dispersants onto the oil. Dispersants change the chemical makeup of the oil. They enable it to mix into the water instead of staying in a large [slick](#) that floats. This helps to protect marine life such as sea snakes and birds from getting covered in oil while they feed or swim on the surface of the sea.

Yet the AMCS says using dispersants can cause a different type of problem. The dispersants break up the oil, which then sinks to the bottom. This oil can then damage underwater marine life such as coral reefs.

Some marine scientists say coral reefs in that area have developed a way of protecting themselves from oil damage. Some types of bacteria that live on the reefs are able to break the oil down. Small amounts

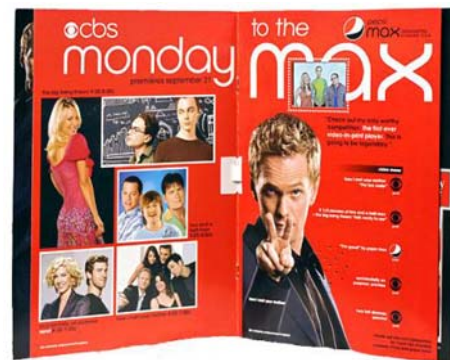
of it may not do any harm. But the scientists warn they don't know how much oil these bacteria can break down. It's possible, they say, that a large amount of oil like this could be too much for the bacteria.

The company is not sure what caused the leak. It said it will investigate it to find out exactly what happened. ■

## VIDEO ADVERTS IN MAGAZINES

An American company has been the first to publish video advertisements in a magazine.

The latest edition of the magazine Entertainment Weekly has a section that contains a small video screen. The screen is 0.25 centimetres (0.1 inch) thick. It is set into a cardboard insert so it doesn't get damaged. It also has small speakers for sound. When the magazine page is opened, the video begins.



Video screen on magazine page

The video contains about 25 minutes of [trailers](#) for new television programmes. It also features adverts for products. The magazine page has a menu of buttons that readers can push to play different parts of the video.

The company that designed it is called Americhip. The microchip that plays the video can be embedded into a magazine page or booklet.

The amount of video it can store depends on how much memory it has – some can contain videos that are two hours long. The video plays on an LCD (liquid crystal display) screen. The screen also has a rechargeable battery so it can be used again. Readers are even able to upload their own videos onto the screen using a USB port connected to their computer.

The video screens were put into a few thousand copies of the magazine. These were sent to people who pay to subscribe to the publication. The magazines sold in shops do not yet have the video screens.

Critics say the screens are quite expensive to produce, so they could not be used in all the magazines. Some users said the videos took too long to load. Others found it difficult to 'flick' through the pages of the magazine. This was because

the page with the video screen is much stiffer than the others. Some environmentalists have warned the video screens would make recycling the magazines more difficult.

The companies that paid for the advertising insist it is a good new way to communicate with readers. Others agree. They say people are now more used to reading text alongside moving video clips on the internet. They also believe that as E-readers become a more popular way of reading books, having videos on text pages will become more common. ■

## ELECTION IN NORWAY

A parliamentary election was held in Norway on 14th September. The political group known as the Red-Green coalition won the most

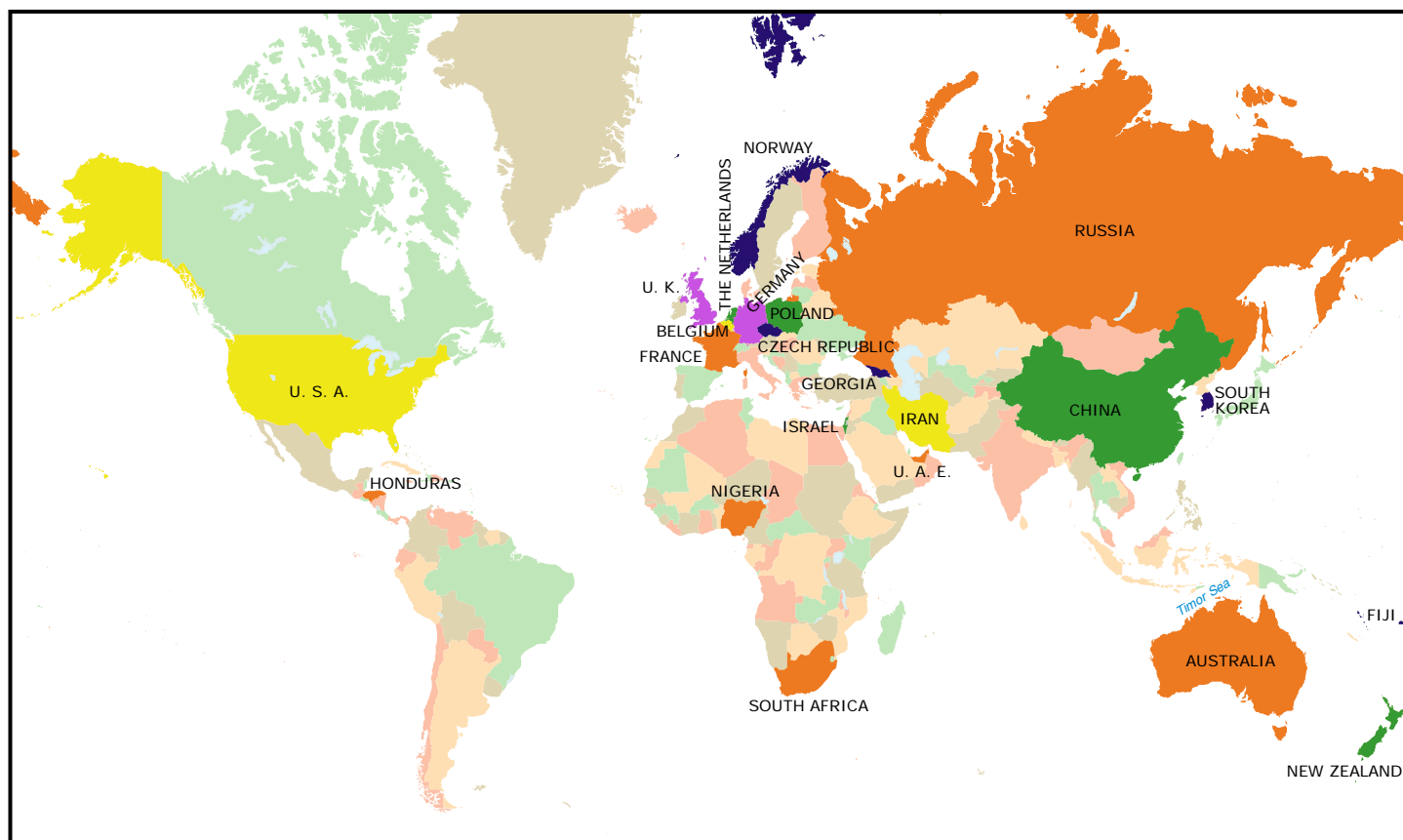
seats. A coalition is a government in which several different political parties work together.



*Jens Stoltenberg, prime minister of Norway*

The Red-Green coalition is led by Jens Stoltenberg, who has been Norway's elected leader since 2005. The election result means Mr Stoltenberg will still be the country's prime minister.

In Norway parliamentary elections are held every four years. The parliament, called the Storting, is in Oslo, the capital city. It has 169 seats. Norway is divided into 19





different areas, called counties. Each elects a certain number of people to the Storting.

Over 20 different political parties took part in the election. The two biggest are the Norwegian Labour Party and the Progress Party. The Norwegian Labour Party is led by Mr Stoltenberg. It is the largest party in the Red-Green coalition.

Mr Stoltenberg's own party won three seats more than it had before. But one of the other members of the Red-Green coalition lost four seats. This means the group's total of 86 is just enough – by one seat – to out-vote all the other parties in the 169-seat parliament. At the last election, the coalition won 87 seats.

Unlike most other European countries Norway is not a member of the European Union (EU). Norway held a referendum – a vote in which all adults can take part – on joining the EU in 1994. Most Norwegians voted not to apply to join. However, Prime Minister Stoltenberg has said he would like Norway to become a member of the EU in the future.

Most of the discussions, or debates, before the vote took place were about local issues. These included immigration, schools, care for elderly people, and hospitals.

Norway is a member of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization). The country has 500 troops in Afghanistan. Yet the party leaders did not say very much about whether they thought these soldiers should be moved to where the fighting is fiercest.

Currently the USA and the UK have the most troops in Afghanistan. They have asked other NATO member countries who have soldiers in Afghanistan – such as France, Italy and Germany – to send some troops

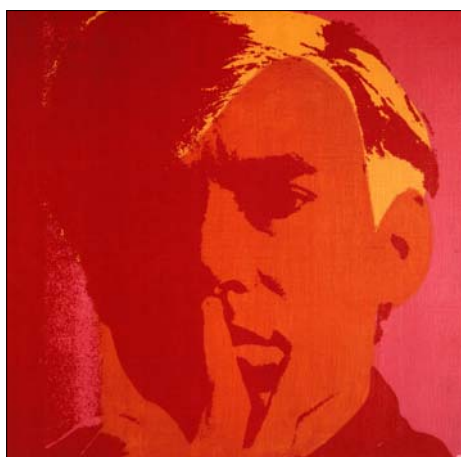
to the south of the country where the fighting is most difficult. So far all have refused.

Norway has not suffered very much from the money problems that have affected many other countries over the last two years. It has large supplies of oil and gas. These are pumped up from under the North Sea. The percentage of Norwegian adults who do not have a job – called unemployment – is only 3%. This is one of the lowest unemployment rates in the world.

Mr Stoltenberg, who is 50 years old, is a popular leader. In his free time he enjoys cross-country skiing and hiking. ■

## WARHOL PAINTINGS STOLEN

On 11th September police in Los Angeles, in the USA, announced a valuable set of paintings had been stolen. The paintings are by Andy Warhol. They are owned by Richard Weisman, an art collector. He says the paintings are worth US\$3 million (£1.9 million).



One of Andy Warhol's self-portraits

Andy Warhol (1928-1987) was an American artist. His style of making paintings and prints became known as 'Pop Art'. This style became fashionable in the 1950s and early 1960s. Pop art used images

## NewsCAST

**SPILT MILK** — Farmers in European Union (EU) countries have been protesting that the price of milk has dropped. They claim the price that they can sell milk for is now so low that it actually costs them money to produce it. Demonstrations against EU farm ministers have taken place in several EU member countries. On 16th September, as part of their milk protest, 400 farmers in Belgium used their tractors to dump four million litres (880,000 gallons) of milk onto one large field. They are demanding EU ministers pay them for the milk they are unable to sell.

from popular culture such as advertising and ordinary household items. Mr Warhol was one of the best-known pop art artists. Many wealthy people asked him to create paintings for them.

Some of Mr Warhol's most famous works included images of popular celebrities. He created portraits of Elvis Presley and Marilyn Monroe. He also produced numerous drawings, paintings and prints based on the image of a can of Campbell's soup. They were not very popular at first. But later, as Mr Warhol grew more famous, they were sold for large amounts of money. He created many of his paintings using a method that repeated images in different bright colours.



The ten stolen paintings are portraits of famous sportspeople of the 1970s. The owner commissioned Mr Warhol to paint them. They include the boxer Muhammed Ali, the tennis

player Chris Evert and the footballer Pele. Together the paintings are known as 'The Athletes'. Art experts say Mr Warhol printed several different sets of 'The Athletes'. All used different colour schemes. This set also contains a portrait of Mr Weisman.

Police believe the paintings were stolen from Mr Weisman's house at the beginning of September, while he was away. Nothing else in the house, including other paintings by Mr Warhol, was taken or damaged.

A US\$1 million (£625,000) reward has been offered for information that helps the police to find the stolen paintings. ■

## NEW PLAN FOR ULURU

A national park in Australia has written a plan that could stop people from climbing one of the country's most well-known landmarks. The authorities that run the park asked people to submit their ideas on whether people should be banned from climbing Uluru.

Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock, is a large sandstone rock in the Northern Territory of Australia. It is unusual because it rises from a very flat plain. There are no other high mountains or rocks nearby. Geologists think rocks such as this one were once part of mountain ranges that have eroded away over many millions of years. The rock is 348 metres (13,700 feet) high. It has been listed by the United Nations (UN) as a World Heritage Site. These sites are places the UN says must be protected and preserved.

Uluru is a popular place for tourists to visit. People can go on hiking tours around the base of the rock. It is also possible to climb to the top.

But the new plan could mean people will not be allowed to climb the rock any more.



Uluru (Ayers Rock)

Uluru is owned by local Aboriginal people, who are **indigenous** to Australia. The local Aboriginal groups manage the site along with the National Park rangers. The Aboriginal owners ask people not to climb the rock. They say it is too dangerous and people can get hurt. They also say people should not climb Uluru because it is a sacred site.

Others say everyone who wants to visit should be allowed to climb the rock. Tourists spend a lot of money in the area. Some people wonder if stopping visitors from climbing the rock will mean fewer tourists will want to visit. This, they say, could mean local businesses would lose money.

Peter Cochrane is the head of Australia's National Parks. He says he asked people to give him their ideas on what they think visitors to Uluru want to do. He said there could be safety, environmental or cultural reasons to stop people from climbing the rock. He also asked those who want to stop people climbing the rock to suggest other things visitors could do instead.

The Australian government says it will look at all the different ideas before it makes a decision on what the plan should finally say. ■

## MINI T-REX

A three-metre (9.8 foot) long dinosaur fossil has been discovered in China. Palaeontologists – scientists who study fossils – believe the small reptile is an **ancestor** of Tyrannosaurus Rex, or T-Rex.

It is thought that the fossil was dug up in north east China. Instead of being sent to a museum to be studied, the fossil was sold to a collector. The collector contacted scientists at a university in the USA to ask them to identify and study the dinosaur. They agreed. But the palaeontologists said once they had finished studying the fossil the collector had to give it back to the authorities in China.

The scientists have spent three years cleaning and studying the fossil. They discovered it comes from a dinosaur that lived around 60 million years earlier than T-Rex – or about 125 million years ago. The researchers say the dinosaur was five or six years old when it died.



Fossilised mini and giant T-Rex skulls

Until now, palaeontologists thought T-Rex evolved from earlier, similar dinosaurs and that the shape and features of its body must have changed over millions of years. Yet the bones of the new fossil are almost exactly the same as those of the giant T-Rex. It has short arms, powerful back legs, a long body and a big head.

But the fossil is much smaller than a T-Rex – about one hundredth the size. Palaeontologists think the small dinosaur weighed only about 65 kilograms (143 pounds).

The dinosaur experts say the fossil shows T-Rex did not change very much over millions of years – as it evolved it just got bigger and bigger. They think this might have happened because other large predators started dying out. This meant the mini T-Rex could increase in size and weight to become a giant predator.

The fossil will now be put on display in a museum in Inner Mongolia, the part of China in which it was discovered. ▣

## NIGERIAN RIVER PROJECT

Nigeria has begun a project to **dredge** part of the River Niger to make transporting goods easier.



The River Niger is about 4,160 kilometres (2,600 miles) long. It is the third-longest river in Africa. The river begins in Guinea and runs through the West African countries of Mali, Niger and Nigeria. Over thousands of years the river has created a large **delta** where it flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

The Nigerian government plans to dredge the river between Baro and Warri. This is a distance of around 570 kilometres (350 miles). The government says it wants to make it easier for ships and boats

to transport goods to towns and villages along this part of the river. The project is expected to cost about 35 billion naira (£140 million) and take between six and eight months to complete.



River Niger

When a river is dredged, specially-designed boats drag a device along the bottom of the river. This scoops or sucks up sediment, which is then collected by the boat and dumped elsewhere. This sediment, or silt, at the bottom of a river is made up of particles of sand or mud. If too much sediment builds up on a river bed it becomes very shallow and large boats are unable to travel along it.

Many rivers and waterways around the world are frequently dredged to make sure ships can travel along them safely.

The project was first thought of more than 40 years ago. But different governments have put off the dredging. Umaru Yar'Adua, the president of Nigeria, has now decided to start the project. The president also hopes that a hydro-electric power station on the river will be able to produce more electricity when the dredging is finished.

Not everyone agrees with the project. One group has accused the Nigerian government of not thinking about what will happen to many people who live next to the river. It says the government must make sure that these people's water supplies are not affected by the dredging. ▣

## NEW METRO OPENS IN DUBAI

A new metro network opened in Dubai, a city in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on 9th September. It is called the Dubai Metro. The trains are automated, which means they have no human drivers.

Work first began on the metro four years ago. A group of three Japanese companies and one company from Turkey were chosen to build it. They agreed to complete the first section by September 2009. Then the metro could be opened on the **symbolic** date of 9th September – or 09/09/09.

Over recent years the roads in Dubai have become very crowded. Some traffic jams last all day. The new metro has been built to get people to leave their cars at home and travel by train.

The different metro lines have been given the names of colours. The first section to open on 9th September was part of the Red Line. In the city centre the metro goes underground. Further out from the centre the train lines run on

## NewsCast

**DOG DRIVER** — A woman in New Zealand is recovering from the shock of seeing a truck crash through the front window of the café she owns. She was surprised to discover that the vehicle did not appear to have a driver. When she investigated, the woman found a dog in the front seat. The driver had left the dog in the truck while he went into a shop. The dog had then knocked the gear stick of the truck. This caused it to move forwards and crash through the café window. Nobody was hurt in the accident.



**viaducts.** These have been built above the roadways.

The metro was officially opened by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum. He is the ruler of Dubai and the prime minister of the UAE. The first journey was made by Sheikh Mohammed and a group of specially invited guests. They boarded the train at nine seconds and nine minutes past nine o'clock in the evening.



*Dubai Metro train*

The next day the metro opened to the public at six o'clock in the morning. In the first two days around 110,000 people travelled on the metro. This is about 10% of the people who live in Dubai.

Each train and station is air conditioned. There are carriages for women only. The metro trains also have a first class section, called 'gold class'. It has leather seats.

The cost of a ticket from one end of the Red Line to the other – a distance of 52 kilometres (32.5 miles) – is 5.80 dirhams (£0.93). Travelling in a gold class carriage costs double the price. The Red Line will have 29 stations when they are all opened.

Some people think it will be difficult to get people to leave their cars at home. Both cars and petrol are inexpensive in Dubai. It is also very hot and **humid** throughout most of the year. This means that some people will not wish to walk to the stations unless they live nearby.

The next line to be finished will be the Green Line. It is expected to open in June next year. The Blue and Purple Lines will be built in the future. The total cost of building the whole metro network is estimated to be 28 billion dirhams (£4.7 billion). ■

## RARE SEABIRD SPOTTED

For the first time in 120 years, an endangered bird has been photographed flying. Scientists say the seabird, called a Fiji petrel, is a critically endangered species. This means it is at a high risk of becoming extinct in the wild. Now scientists think if they can discover where the birds are nesting, it may be possible to save the species.

The Fiji petrel was first identified in 1855. Yet since then the birds have only been seen a few times. Scientists think some of the birds nest on Gau Island. This is part of Fiji and one of the islands that make up the country's archipelago.

The birds are thought to make their nests in burrows on the ground. The scientists think this could be one reason that there are so few of them. It is easy for predators such as wild cats to find the burrows and eat the newly-hatched birds. Other predators eat birds' eggs, and this could be another reason why there are not many Fiji petrels.

On 11th September an organisation called Birdlife International reported the results of an expedition to try to photograph the rare bird. A team had set out in a boat off the coast of Fiji. Bird experts in Fiji had prepared food to try to attract the birds. The food was fish oil and chopped up bits of fish, which had a very strong smell. The scientists mixed the food

with some water and froze it into big blocks.

The team released blocks of the food into the sea behind the boat. The blocks then gradually melted so bits of fish and oil floated over a wide area of the sea.



*Fiji petrel (Photograph by Birdlife International)*

The food attracted many different seabirds, and the scientists were able to gather information about these other species. They saw fewer than ten Fiji petrels over 11 days, but said it was 'fantastic' to see the rare birds at all.

Next year the team plans to search for the Fiji petrels' nesting sites. The scientists say it is important to find and study these as it will teach them more about the birds' behaviour and habits. Then, say the scientists, they can plan how best to try to protect the species. ■

## Newsademic.com

**Editor:** Amber Thody

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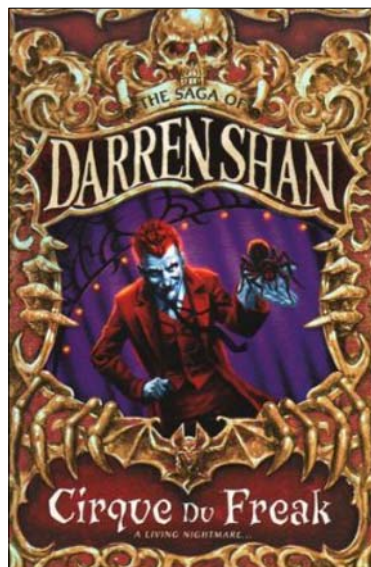
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## B O O K R E V I E W

### HAVE YOU READ ...?



Darren Shan and his friends are playing football one school day when they find a paper flyer. It's an advertisement for *Cirque Du Freak* (translation: Circus of Freaks).

Tommy, Alan, Steve and Darren all immediately want to go and find out more. The show, says the flyer, lasts for one week only. To get tickets, one must present a flyer – and only some people will be allowed to buy tickets.

When rough-and-tough Steve presents the flyer to a creepy ticket seller, he's only allowed two tickets. So the four boys toss pieces of paper in the air mixed with the two tickets, and whoever gets hold of them (with eyes closed) gets to see the show. It turns out the two who are most keen to go – Darren and Steve – are the ones who snatch the tickets.

The two friends go to a rundown old theatre, and are allowed inside by a tall, black-toothed, creepy character by the name of Mr. Tall. He shows them in to Cirque Du Freak, which has been open for business for about 500 years. His knowledge is menacing: he knows the boys' full names and information about their families and lives.

He leads the boys into the shabby theatre, where various monstrosities are displayed for their amusement – or total fear. There's a dangerous werewolf that is controlled by hypnosis so it can be touched by terrified ticket-holders. There is also Gertha Teeth, a woman with the most powerful teeth in the world. I like the snake-boy, who is as repulsive and dangerous – if not more so – than an enormous snake in the Cirque Du Freak. And then there's Madame Octa, a poisonous, intelligent, purple-red-and-green tarantula. She paralyses a goat without killing it, and spins a web from a man's chin.

The problems start when Darren gets the idea to steal Madame Octa from the show. Madame Octa's owner, Mr Crepsley, is angry, and wants to find a way to make young Darren pay.

I like the sense of predestination – that Darren and Steve seem to have been chosen to see the show before they play the grab-game for the tickets with their friends. And Mr. Crepsley is an interesting, threatening character, who seems to have total control of Darren and Steve. What makes him so scary is that he knows about them and their families. They cannot really escape from him, and that's the unsettling heart of this book. He insists that Darren become his 'vampire assistant', and there doesn't seem to be a way out for Darren.

Things become very tense and quite scary when Steve gets bitten by Madame Octa, and becomes dangerously ill. Later he goes through a strange kind of transformation, which makes him a great danger to Darren – and to Mr. Crepsley!

Darren Shan's real name is Darren O' Shaughnessy. Although it's fictional, this scary story is written as if the author is the main character, making it feel more real! This is a horror story, so there are some quite gruesome parts best suited to readers of age 11 and up.

*Cirque Du Freak* is the first of 12 books in the Saga of Darren Shan. The ending does not let readers down, nor is it very merciful for poor Darren – he will leave behind everyone, and everything, he knows, and embark upon a new, supernatural existence. With this strange series of twists begins the resulting series.

*The Saga of Darren Shan: Cirque Du Freak: A Living Nightmare* by Darren Shan. 2000. HarperCollins.

Reviewed by **Craig Purdon**

### WANT US TO REVIEW A BOOK THAT YOU HAVE READ AND ENJOYED?

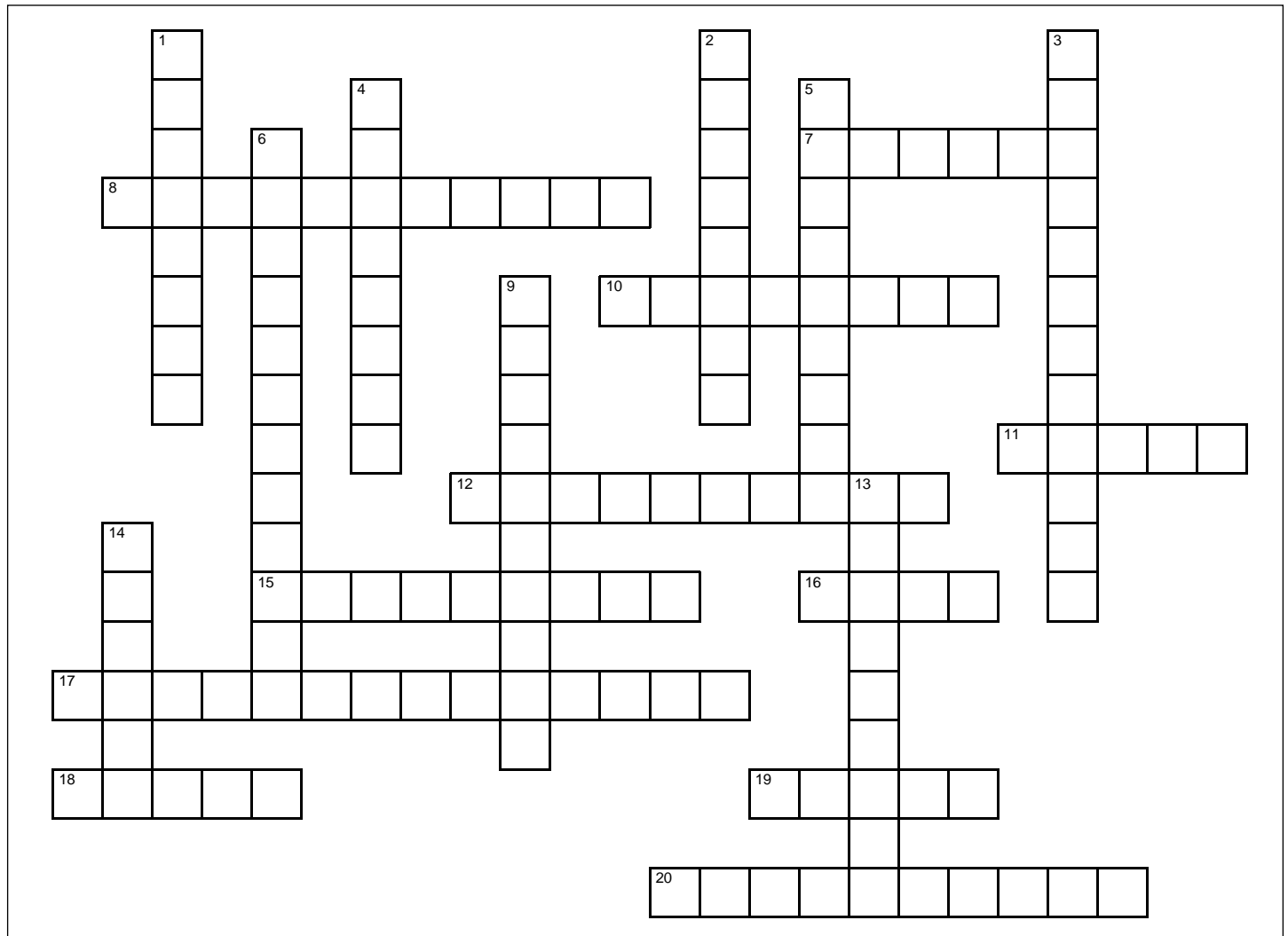
If you do, look for the 'recommended book' link in your subscriber menu when you log in to our website.

Complete the form and tell us why you enjoyed the book. If we review your choice, we'll mention your name and include some of your comments.

# GLOSSARY

## PRIZE COMPETITION

**INSTRUCTIONS:** ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword find the 20 words in the word search on the next page ➡



### Across

- 7 Noun** Safety and refuge given by a country to refugees from another country  
**8 Noun** Reducing or giving up weapons  
**10 Noun** Anyone from whom a person is descended  
**11 Noun** Group of people who try to influence government policy  
**12 Verb** Continually mistreated somebody or a group of people  
**15 Verb** To stop something or someone on the way to a destination  
**16 Noun** A long-lasting quarrel, especially between families  
**17 Noun** The management of the day-to-day running of a business or organisation  
**18 Noun** A triangular area at the mouth of a river where it spreads into branches  
**19 Noun** A large patch of oil floating on water  
**20 Noun** An amount expressed as a proportion of 100

### Down

- 1 Noun (Plural)** Short pieces of film shown to advertise a television programme or film  
**2 Noun (Plural)** Long bridges, usually with many arches, carrying a railway or road over a valley or low ground  
**3 Verb** Formally placed an order for someone to carry out a task or make something  
**4 Adjective** Representing an idea  
**5 Adjective** Describes something basic used for a short time when nothing else is available  
**6 Noun** Bad health because of a lack, or the wrong type, of food  
**9 Adjective** To do with business or trade  
**13 Noun** The part of a government responsible for making sure laws and decisions are put into action  
**14 Verb** To drag a device along a piece of sea- or river-bed to remove unwanted material or catch fish



# GLOSSARY

## PRIZE COMPETITION *CONTINUED*

N O I T I R T U N L A M F R T U E P  
 O L C O A T L E D N S E O R R V A E  
 I S M A K E S H I F T T A T I O D R  
 T T L N J X J D R M S I P O F U T C  
 A C W I K J W K J E L S G C E E I E  
 R U K V C Y S O C E I V V F X N Z N  
 T D S M W K U N R P N K U E T J L T  
 S A Z I O C A S E U T Z C E D A U A  
 I I Z Q V M N R V N G U R K I E S G  
 N V P L U H S I E M T C P C D I B E  
 I P H L D E P M W I E E R Y O U H R  
 M W Y E C E A D V P X E N B B O O R  
 D S I U P M R E T D M X J B Z Q Q P  
 A Y T V R M G U D M U Z Z O S U U G  
 V E L A L U R H O I N O Q L A T B Q  
 D O S F N D L C I L O B M Y S P S K  
 E I H M W N I E Y J E A E G D E R D  
 D E N O I S S I M M O C Z Y Y S G K

**INSTRUCTIONS:** ③ Find the crossword answers in the word search. Words can go vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back to front. ④ After solving the word search write down the unused letters, starting at the top left and reading from left to right, top to bottom to find the solution. **Hint** - The numbers of letters and words in the solution are shown under the word search.

### COMPETITION PRIZES

#### Glossary Prize Winner

Paperback copy of 'Cirque Du Freak: A Living Nightmare' by Darren Shan

#### Glossary Prize Runner up

10 free issues of Newsademic

#### Sudoku Prize Winner

10 free issues of Newsademic

### ISSUE NUMBER 102 PRIZE WINNERS

#### Glossary Competition

Sally Chen, Australia  
Andy Wilson, UK

#### Sudoku Competition

Amy Bruce, UK

### Competition solution (two words with a total of 16 letters)

Go to [www.newsademic.com](http://www.newsademic.com) log in and submit your solution by clicking on the "Enter competition" link within the Subscribers tools menu.

Deadline for receiving your entry is 10 pm on 8th October 2009 (GMT/UTC).

### COMPETITION RULES:

1 Competition prizes are awarded on a per issue and not a per edition basis. 2 Only one entry per person per competition will be accepted. 3 You must obtain permission from your parent/guardian before entering if you are under 16 years of age. 4 Deadline for receiving entries is at 10 pm (GMT) on 8th October 2009. 5 The winners will be randomly selected from all correct entries received. 6 The winners will be contacted by E-mail. Newsademic's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 7 Prizes must be taken as offered. There are no cash alternatives. 8 Newsademic does not accept any responsibility for lost or late entries due to the internet. Proof of submission is not proof of receipt. 9 Prizes won by those who have used a school subscription to enter will be awarded to the individual entrant and not to the school. 10 Competitions are not open to employees or contractors of Newsademic. 11 Newsademic reserves the right to cancel competitions at any stage, if in their opinion it is deemed necessary or if circumstances arise beyond their control. 12 These rules are governed by the laws of England and Wales. 13 When entering competitions entrants will be deemed to have accepted these rules and to agree to be bound by them.

## SUDOKU COMPETITION

**INSTRUCTIONS:** ① Fill the boxes on each horizontal row with a number between 1 and 9. ② Fill the boxes on each vertical row with a number between 1 and 9. ③ Make sure that each number between 1 and 9 also appears in each highlighted 3 x 3 square box. ④ After solving the Sudoku puzzle write down the numbers from the tinted vertical column from top to bottom in the boxes below.

### Competition Solution

3	7				2	1		
4		8			5			
				3				
7							6	5
6					8	2		7
				4				
8				1	7		2	
	4					3		
		6		2			9	